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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us — Electra Govoni is looking for volunteers

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Winchester Historical Society Board of Directors President Electra Govoni is looking for people to volunteer to help out. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Even Winchester non-residents can be helpers. Take Burlington [illegible] Electra Govoni, who is president of the Winchester Historical Soc[illegible]

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Board of Directors, and who is looking for volunteers and members.

Fewer than 1% of residents are members of the society, although more donate to it. Membership is $50 and in addition to donors, Govoni is looking for volunteers and board members.

“We need help with our events and docents to give tours of the Sanborn House, or house sitters when folks have functions in the building,” she says.

The Sanborn House on High Street could use some help and the Historical Society is looking for donations for four big projects. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

Govoni is also hoping someone will agree to be membership chair to help increase the number of members.

“We also need someone on the board who’s familiar with market
can help us design brochures and make sure our social media accounts get

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noticed," she says. "Our treasurer, Erni Ravanis, has agreed to extend for another year, but if anyone in the community is willing to take that on, we'd be grateful."

Growing up, Govoni says she was always coming to Winchester for medical and dental appointments, and she met her husband Joe when she was 16.

"He lived on Myopia Road and it became like a second home for me," she says.

> Have you got someone for Helpers Among Us? Email editor@WinchesterNews.org.

Both Joe's house and Govoni's were historic homes, hers a 1920s bungalow, and she became fascinated by historic properties. Eventually her friend Hilda Wong-Doo got her involved with the society.

In addition to looking for members and volunteers, Govoni says the Historical Society needs donations to do four big projects — roof balustrades need to be restored and returned to the roof; the decorative columns need restoration too.

"We need to get the house air-conditioned to get more people renting the house for functions," she says.

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Looking to host an event? The Historical Society says you can rent out the Sanborn House on High Street. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

And the fourth thing is a garden outside the French doors.

“The plans will require about $2 million dollars,” she adds.

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Govoni is self employed as a coach to small businesses who don't have extensive boards of directors.

"I get them together monthly to discuss whatever problems or questions they have for each other," she says.

And like many of WN's "Helpers Among Us" subjects, Govoni volunteers for other groups. She's immediate past president of the Woburn Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Winchester Cultural District. She's also involved with Women of Woburn, which supports women business owners.

"I used to be involved with 'Read to a Child,' in Waltham where we'd have kids in grades 1 to 4 choose a book and we'd read it to them while they ate lunch," she says.

When asked why she's involved in the Historical Society, Govoni points out that "History helps create a sense of shared identification."

"It gives us a sense of belonging and joy," she says. "History and its stories can inspire the next generation."

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Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a ha already discovered the gene Winchester residents. That's why she and her

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Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in “gently used children’s clothing.

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women’s History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester’s School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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